



Holy Cross College, Ryde

4th February 2010

Dear Year 8 Parents,

On behalf of the Year 8 homeroom teachers and team, I would like to welcome you back and look forward to working with you and your son's once again in 2010.

I am pleased to say, that the boys have returned to school feeling more determined and confident and I hope that they feel positive about year 8 and are enthusiastic about their time ahead.

I am undertaking a process of interviewing each Year 8 student. This is purely based on goal setting and giving them some areas where they can improve academically, socially, behaviourally and spiritually.

Last Friday, 29th January, I had a year meeting with all of Year 8 and I discussed with them the expectations, rules and regulations of Holy Cross College. These expectations, rules and regulations are outlined in your son's diary. There will be no excuses or leniency if a student can not comply with the college's expectations.

There are a number of points that I wish to draw to your attention.

1. Calendar: Some important dates that you should be aware of for terms 1 & 2;
 - 9th Feb. P & F Wine & Cheese Welcome to Parents Night
 - 17th Feb Ash Wednesday
 - 24th Feb College Opening Mass
 - 2nd March P & F Meeting
 - 15th–17th March Year 8 Camp
 - 17th March St Patrick's Day
 - 20th March College Works Day
 - 21st March College Open Day
 - 1st April Easter Liturgy / End of Term 1

 - 19th April Term 2 begins - winter Uniform
 - 26th April ANZAC Day Holiday
 - 5th May 7-10 Parent Teacher Night
 - 6th May Mother's Day Mass
 - 19th May School Photos
 - 31st May– 4th June Year 7-8 Examination Block
 - 10th June Sports Photo Day
 - 11th June Pupil Free Day
 - 14th June Queens Birthday Holiday
 - 29th June Year 7 & Parent Teacher Night
 - 2nd July End of Term 2

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2. **Expectations;**

- Homework is given every night. Students are expected to complete all required homework.
- Study and revision is encouraged as part of the nightly routine
- Uniform and presentation needs to be of a high standard – this includes hairstyle, grooming and jewellery.
- Zero tolerance will be adopted where students fail to comply with College uniform policy – these students will be sent home.
- Please read the policy on Mobile phones, IPODS, MP3 and any other electronic device in the School Diary.
- Silent reading is conducted in homeroom each day.
- Wednesday Morning Mass – 8am-8.30am. Each religion class will be asked to attend.

3. **The Diary;**

The College diary is a student's most valuable tool at Holy Cross College. It not only provides a location for recording homework but also acts as a communication device between parents and teachers. I would encourage you to read through your son's diary each week to see how he is going. *Parents are required to sign the diary each week* before diaries are checked in extended administration classes on Monday morning. It is then that his Homeroom teacher will check and record his merits, demerits and any correspondence from home. Please feel free to comment in his diary.

The diary also has a list of school expectations, procedures and rules for you to read carefully over.

4. **CrossRoads;**

The school newsletter, better known as 'CrossRoads', is distributed to students every fortnight and is available on the school website. It is important that parents read the newsletter. Copies are also available from the front office.

5. **Absence from school;**

It is a requirement of the school that if your son is absent on any day that the school office is *phoned* and notified by 9am. On your son's return he is required to bring a *note* written by parents to his homeroom teacher outlining the reason for his absence.

6. **Arriving Late;**

If a student is late to school, he must sign in at Student Services and seek his Year Coordinator before going to class.

7. **Departing Early;**

All early departures must be signed by the Year Coordinator in the morning.

8. **Appointments;**

Please try and make appointments outside the school calendar.

9. **Holiday Leave;**

A written letter addressed to Mr Taylor for the principals' approval.

10. **Last day of terms and School Events;**

Each and every day of the school calendar is vital and compulsory, including last days of each term and all school events.

11. **Patrician Values;**

Our major focus as a school is the quality of our Catholic Teaching and learning environment. We are encouraging maximum effort from the boys in their classes and a respect for the rights of others to learn and excel at their studies.

At Holy Cross College, we believe:

Working together	<i>Doing the hard work</i>
Making Sacrifice	<i>Looking after each other</i>
Embracing the Future	<i>Remembering that the little things matter...</i>

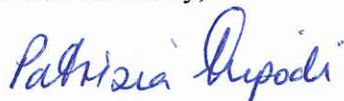
12. **Reports;**

It is the College's expectation that parents or guardians be present at our Report evenings where teachers are available to discuss your son's progress. If attending a report evening is not possible, then it is the responsibility of the parents or guardians to make arrangements to communicate with the Year Coordinator.

Please feel free to contact any of your son's teachers by phoning the school on any day if the need arises. The best contact person for you if you have any concerns is your son's homeroom teacher. I am also available to be contacted for more serious issues. I look forward to a successful and positive partnership between home and school in order to facilitate the learning and behaviour of your son's.

Have an enjoyable year,

Yours sincerely,



Patrizia Tripodi
Year 8 Coordinator